

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1036

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Craig and Brian Hutto of Lebanon, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to recognize and honor two exceptional Tennesseans who, in suffering a most traumatic and life-threatening experience, have held themselves up as exemplars of courage and humility to the entire State and to the Nation; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2005, Craig Hutto, his father, Roger, who serves as general counsel and legislative liaison for the Department of Safety, and his mother, Lou Ann Hutto, who is employed by Toshiba America, traveled to Cape San Blas, Florida, to join in a family vacation with Craig's older brother, Brian, and his wife, Megan; and

WHEREAS, fishing enthusiasts, Craig and Brian quickly obtained licenses to fish on the beach, and on June 27, 2005, the Hutto family went down to the water to enjoy a relaxing day by the sea; and

WHEREAS, Craig and Brian started fishing in waist-deep water and immediately began to catch so many fish they had to return to shore several times, posing for pictures on each trip back; and

WHEREAS, walking back into the ocean, as they had done so many times that morning, Craig and his brother, Brian, had just entered waist-deep water when Craig was bumped by a bull shark; after one bump, the shark grabbed Craig's leg in the thigh area, jerked him underwater, and began to pull him away from the beach area; and

WHEREAS, Brian, about eight feet away from his brother, immediately swam to Craig and grabbed his arm to keep the shark from pulling him out any further; Brian saved his brother from a certain death by pulling him toward the shore; and

WHEREAS, as Brian fought to keep his brother, Craig, above the water, Craig used his hands to try to pry the shark's mouth from around his thigh; in so doing, he sustained traumatic injury to his hands, rendering them useless for the next month and a half; and

WHEREAS, with the shark still firmly clamped onto Craig's leg, his father and another gentleman rushed out into the water to help pull Craig to shore; and

WHEREAS, Brian continued to beat the shark about the head, and when the shark reared its head above the water, Brian struck the shark with such force it finally released its hold upon Craig's leg; and

WHEREAS, in those crucial moments following Craig's devastating injury, three nurses and an emergency medical technician, who just happened to be on the beach that fateful morning, took turns applying pressure to Craig's leg to keep him from bleeding to death; miraculously, there was also a doctor on the beach who rendered advice and instructions to the medics and the emergency personnel in route; and

WHEREAS, at Bay Medical Center in Panama City, Florida, the doctors and staff soon determined that to save Craig's life, it would be necessary to amputate his leg; and

WHEREAS, the Hutto family felt an immediate outpouring of support from the Panama City community as well as the kindness and generosity of fellow Tennesseans; within two hours, a benefactor had donated a jet to fly Craig's brother, Zach, to the hospital to be by his brother's side; Tennesseans vacationing in Florida visited with the family in Panama City, and members of Craig's basketball team drove many hours to visit their teammate and friend; and

WHEREAS, Craig remained in intensive care for the next several days and underwent six surgeries to his leg and his hands, and when Craig was transferred to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, the Hutto family was overwhelmed by offers of support from all over the world; however, the most intimate and personal support came from Middle Tennessee, especially the Davidson County and Wilson County area, the Lebanon community, and from the family's church, Saint Frances Cabrini; and

WHEREAS, upon the Hutto family's return to Lebanon, doctors and nurses volunteered time to help with daily care-giving, and community members pulled together to help the family with meals and organized fundraisers including car washes, concerts, and a golf tournament;

Saint Frances Cabrini held a blood drive in Craig's name, the most successful blood drive ever held in Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, the generous and selfless efforts of so many good people have truly humbled the Hutto family, as they have come to the realization that the world is truly made up of good people who simply want to help others in need; and

WHEREAS, Craig is learning to walk on a new computerized prosthesis and is increasing his activity with another new running leg that will allow him to participate in activities such as the Challenged Athletes Foundation's Annual Triathlon to be held in La Jolla, California, where he will swim 1.2 miles in the ocean, while his brother, Zach, will bike 52 miles, and his brother, Brian, will run 13.2 miles; and

WHEREAS, the Hutto family firmly believes that the progress made through this tragic event and recovery period has been the result of their abiding faith and the prayers of so many caring people, excellent health care, and the outpouring of support from throughout Tennessee and their community; and

WHEREAS, Craig and Brian Hutto shared a most incredible experience on that fateful morning, and this traumatic and life-changing event touched so many people in so many ways; perhaps Roger and LouAnn Hutto express it best, "How do you adequately thank someone for caring and praying for your son's life? The only way we can is to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts."; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Craig and Brian Hutto who, in suffering a most traumatic and life-threatening experience, have held themselves up as exemplars of courage and humility to the entire State and to the Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.